

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A device for reducing the oxygen content of ballast water on a ship (1) where ballast water is introduced into the upper part (14) of a downcomer (12), whereby a pressure drop arises, especially in the upper part (14) of the downcomer (12), facilitating the release of gases from the seawater, the separated gas being able to leave the seawater after flowing through the downcomer (12) together with the seawater, characterized in that the upper part (14) of the downcomer (12), that is situated well above the ship's (1) deck, is directly connected to a water supply pipe (10), and where the downcomer's (12) ~~lower part~~lower part is communicating with the ship's (1) ballast compartment (4).
2. (Original) A device according to Claim 1, characterized in that the upper part (14) of the downcomer (12) communicates with a gas pipe (15), where the gas pipe (15) is arranged to deliver nitrogenous gas to the downcomer (12).
3. (Original) A device according to Claim 1, characterized in that the lower part of the downcomer (12) is coupled, preferably in the horizontal direction, to the upper part (18) of a vertical separating pipe (16), wherein the upper part (18) is coupled to an extraction pipe (20) at a slightly higher level than that of the point of connection of the downcomer (12) to the separating pipe (16).
4. (Original) A device according to Claim 3, characterized in that the connection between the downcomer (12) and the separating pipe (16) is tangential.